



# HENDRY HERALD

**JAMES E. HENDRY CHAPTER**  
of the **AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY**

**WHEN YOU GARDEN, YOU GROW** [hendrychapterhibiscus.com](http://hendrychapterhibiscus.com) **JUNE 2020**

## CULTIVATE HOPE:

Now more than ever, our gardens serve as symbols of resilience and rebirth

### **Unseasonably Dry! from RIVERLAND NURSERY "Our plants & landscapes aren't just pretty..they're smart" 239-693-5555**

Hello friends! We have had an unusually dry April this year. We typically look forward to this time of year, as rain helps plants refresh and flush with new growth. Many of our snowbird customers have installed new landscaping with the anticipation of rain. Please keep in mind that you should continue hand-watering your newly installed plant material! Our incredibly hot temperatures partnered with a lack of rainfall has taken a toll on many plants. If hand-watering is difficult, consider increasing your irrigation system's run time. For ideas and advice on how much water to give your plants, give us a call!

If you are considering adding to your landscape, consider the benefits of utilizing low-maintenance, low-input native and Florida-friendly plants. We offer a wonderful variety of hardy plants that tolerate both wet and dry conditions

### **A pearl of wisdom from RYAN PERRY from The MikeBernard Acadiana Chapter Lafayette, Louisiana**

The scientific part of my brain has been working overtime in these chaotic times. Remember the tips we have discussed for not spreading hibiscus disease? Some examples are sanitizing pruners between every cut, keeping a healthy distance between plants when placing them in your garden, quarantining new acquisitions from your collection until it is clear that they are disease and pest free, and moving sickly plants to a special isolated area where they get your extra love and TLC. For what it's worth, I ask that you take this scientific mind into your everyday lives as it relates to a virus now affecting human life. Sanitize, observe, keep distance, be kind, and stay calm.

### **MESSAGE FROM JOANNA SCHIMEK, PRESIDENT OF AHS**

We are without a doubt experiencing unprecedented times in our country. I hope this finds all you well. I would remind each of you to follow the rules, for your area, to stay safe. I want to keep you all informed about the decisions the Board of Directors has discussed and made during the pandemic.

- 1) Todd, as 1st VP, and his committee has come up with a revised Judges Test. In lieu of Judges Training for the 2020 Show Season ONLY, because many chapters are not meeting, judges that have not had the training this year will take the test and return it to him.**
- 2) The rule that "you must judge in 2 shows" to keep your credentials, has been waived for the 2020 show season ONLY.**
- 3) The 2020 June convention has been moved to November 12-15.** We think it will not yet be safe to travel in June.
- 4) A hybridizer that had requested for the rule stating, "a variety cannot be sold prior to being entered as a Seedling" be waived for the 2021 Show Season.** This would allow them to sell propagated plants in 2020 and still enter their varieties as Seedlings in the 2021 shows. **This proposition did NOT pass the Board of Directors vote.**

If you have any questions or concerns please let me know. Please stay well. I hope you are having abundant and beautiful blooms! **JOANNA SCHIMEK**, President of the American Hibiscus Society [jschim@yahoo.com](mailto:jschim@yahoo.com)

## YOU ASKED AND WE ANSWERED

In response to member's inquiries about various hibiscus problems, BETH MEEHAN has suggested you check out the HIDDEN VALLEY site. Hidden Valley is a hibiscus seller, hybridizer and has an informative site about hibiscus, how-to care for and identifies and hopefully solves problems. They are located in California and ship not only plants but also a myriad of care products. The following info is from their web site.

## Hibiscus Doctor

Oh no! Something is wrong with your hibiscus! How do you figure out what it is? We have written many, many articles and webpages telling you how to figure out what is wrong with your hibiscus, but sometimes a picture is worth a thousand words. So to help you keep your hibiscus healthy, find the picture and description below that best match the problem with your hibiscus, then click on the link at right to find out how to treat it.

[Hibiscus Care - Hibiscus Doctor](#) [Exotic hibiscus sales, hibiscus care, and hibiscus cultivation.](#)

[The most extensive site on the web about hibiscus..](#)

Hidden Valley Hibiscus [[news@hiddenvalleyhibiscus.ccsend.com](mailto:news@hiddenvalleyhibiscus.ccsend.com)]



**BETH REPLIED TO A MEMBER'S CONCERN: NANCY KOPP EMAILED KEVIN HER PHONE NUMBER TO DISCUS HIS HIBISCUS PROBLEM.** It is so worth joining our group just for the expert advice.

**Q:** When I first joined you guys as a Canadian snowbird I was thrilled at the hundreds of hibiscus I had . For the last year or so I see hardly any flowers. I have debugged with Bayer . Fertilized and they have irrigation. Nice green leaves. No flowers. Anything you can steer me to would be most helpful. Thanks. Kevin Crone. Fort Myers Beach.

**A:** Barb sent me your note regarding your hibiscus not blooming. There could be several causes for this, so please give us more details. Are your plants in a pot or in the ground? What kind of fertilizer are you using? How often? How much sun is your plant getting? How much water? Does your plant have good drainage? Are you getting buds that drop off before they open or no buds at all?

I'm sorry I cannot give you one answer that will fix it for you. Not all hibiscus are alike. Some want more sun than others do, some grow faster than others do. Sometimes you just have to try different things. I had a plant that was not blooming at all. I moved it three times to different locations, changing the sun it was getting ... I moved it from the east to the north of the house and different amounts of sun/shade. Finally, on the third time, it started to bloom and hasn't stopped. I have several blooms every day. It's finally happy. Of course, the sun might not have been the only factor. The place it is in now has better drainage and it's getting more water.

So, please give us more info and maybe we can give you some specific ideas to try. If they are planted in the ground, you may want to get your soil tested when the Extension office opens again. The soil on Fort Myers Beach is very poor and this may give you some information on nutrients that may be missing.

Best wishes, BETH MEEHAN

## THE ONGOING EMAIL CONVERSATION OF Q & A

Hi Beth. What a beautiful morning. And made better by your generosity. Thank you. About 9 years ago I looked around for a nursery who knew a lot about hibiscus for learning and where I could buy some more colourful hibiscus. I couldn't find any but it led me to the association and to hidden valley Both increased my enthusiasm and it led to the purchase of many big tropical hybrids. Blues, chocolate, pink and golds etc. To fill in where the plants got too woody and old. It sort of worked but the new hybrids were finicky. Bloomed when they wanted. The old simple bushes I inherited when I bought 11 years ago just bloomed like crazy for years till now. After reading both articles you sent me I ran out and looked over the plants (took some pictures for you) will send. You will see.

Conclusions. The bushes are old. Probably 15 to 20 years old. The gardener did a hard prune and left none alone. Two bushes are dying. (last picture. Some very special hand tuning or replacing may have to be done soon. Probably hidden valley again. Wish there was something closer. (I did buy some at your latest plant sale stampede.))

I don't see a bug problem. I used a Bayer tree and shrub protect and feed late February. And use occasionally Nurserymen's SURE GROW. SLOW RELEASE I BOUGHT FROM RIVERLAND. PLUS I had all sprayed last November by a professional company. Again I don't think I have a bug problem.

So I am sending all of this to my young gardener. He does a great job with the place and I think he will help me turn this around. By the summer when I am not here it may all be beautiful here. So we need to work out the snowbird plan.

I have my hope and enthusiasm back thanks to you and Barb.

I will keep you posted.

Kevin.

Hi Kevin, Even very old bushes can look good if they are maintained properly. Some of our members have bushes that are 40 years old.

I'm going to send a couple of email with pictures to give you some examples. The first is my neighbor's shrubs. It's been cut into a box hedge for 14 years and looks horrible. There is no growth going on in the center of the bush. They were just pruned about 2 weeks ago and it will be months before they look nice again and have buds. They need a major rejuvenation.

Beth

Every leaf will be replaced at some point. I go out every day and pull yellow leaves from every plant. If you haven't done this in a while, then I wouldn't be surprised if 10% were yellow. These leaves don't look like a bug problem to me. I had a lot of leaves with dark spots on them during the winter. They were a fungus and just cosmetic. Eventually they will fall off. Most of mine have fallen off now. The biggest problem I have with leaves turning yellow are spider mites. They can defoliate a plant very quickly. Take a look at the hibiscus doctor. Your leaves don't look like the picture with the spider mites.

The flower does have some scratch marks, which could indicate thrips. However, with a thrip problem, most of the buds will get fairly large and then not open (see Hibiscus Doctor). The pictures of the buds you sent look good. I would follow these buds and see if they turn yellow or off color. I have used Spinosad. Follow the label directions. Make sure you do it when it's cool ... evening, so your leaves don't burn. I have only used Spinosad one time. I've been following the advice on the hibiscus doctor. As I make my daily round, I pull off any bud that looks discolored or yellow. I also make sure I pick up any buds that fall to the ground. Good luck! Beth

Wow. Like listening to a master, a pro Thank you. I am adding to the plan. You certainly put in the work to study, act and improve. I will keep you posted. Kevin

WE HOPE KEVIN CAN SOLVE HIS "NO BLOOM" HIBISCUS PROBLEM. IF ANYONE HAS ANY FURTHER COMMENTS, SEND THEM TO [barbaramo@earthlink.net](mailto:barbaramo@earthlink.net) AND THEY WILL GET TO KEVIN AND TO ALL HIBISCUS MEMBERS THAT ARE HAVING BLOOM PROBLEMS.



#### HOME SCHOOLING AT ITS FINEST!

**Science and Geography for JEH's youngest member, 11 year old NILA MOLNAR** and mom, **JULIE BRUNI** met with **MICKI DOUGHERTY** on May 4th and Nila learned how to prepare Exotic Hibiscus seeds for planting. Micki claims that Nila is a very careful, detailed and thorough seed nicker, working with an Exacto knife and some isopropyl alcohol! Nila learned to keep detailed records of what seed and cross went into each cell and recorded the seeds on a Seed Matrix sheet with a backup plan of identification. While Nila and Micki worked together Julie was busy on the International Hibiscus Site showing Julie what cultivars were responsible for each seed. It was a great learning opportunity for this young enthusiastic member who has also learned to hybridize. Nila also learned a little geography about Tahiti and Moorea ! Seeds were donated by Todd Alvis and Micki D. as hybridizers. Nila is very excited and willing to

wait to name her future blooms!

In March Nila learned about the Monarch butterflies and her mom bought a butterfly cage. When the milkweed ran out Nila learned that they will eat butternut squash. Since their eating was so voracious Nila is now growing pesticide free milkweed to keep the Monarch's fed. One can see the Monarchs in the vicinity of Nila's home.

written by MICKI DOUGHERTY



#### GOD'S PLAN

**Most seniors never get enough exercise. In His wisdom God decreed that seniors become forgetful so they would have to search for their glasses, keys and other things thus doing more walking. And God looked down and saw that it was good.**

**Then God saw there was another need. In His wisdom He made seniors lose coordination so they would drop things requiring them to bend, reach & stretch And God looked down and saw that it was good.**

**Then God considered the function of bladders and decided seniors would have additional calls of nature requiring more trips to the bathroom, thus providing more exercise. God looked down and saw that it was good.**

**So if you find as you age, you are getting up and down more, remember it's God's will. It is all in your best interest even though you mutter under your breath.**

sent to us by MARY ADAMS, former member

#### HAVE YOU MAILED IN YOUR DUES MONEY?

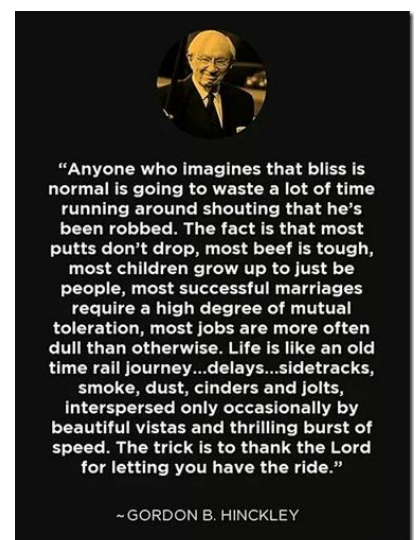
Don't forget as an added bonus and useful benefit, members get a 10% discount at both RIVERLAND NURSERY and GREEN THUMB HYDROPONIC STORE.

For only \$40 you can belong to the greatest garden society in Florida!

Make your check out to AHS and send to:

barbara oster

4457 orchid blvd cape coral, fl 33094



As they say on TV "ACT TODAY" before this offer expires. (Been watching way too much TV lately.) b





## HY'S WAY FOR JUNE

Lubber Grasshopper ( *Romalea guttata* ) As June approaches so does the adult Lubber Grasshopper. It is important to hibiscus growers as an adult can eat an entire hibiscus plant within several days. It is easy to recognize due to its large size and unique coloration.

The Lubber Grasshopper can reach 3 inches in size and is bright orange with red and black markings and yellow and red stripes. It is native to Florida. It goes through several stages. In the nymph stage, it is smaller than the adult, wingless and is black with yellow stripes.

This coloration warns birds that it is poisonous. Since the adult's wings are short they do not fly but jump short distances. In both the adult and nymph stages, they eat plants and can be devastating to hibiscus. Look for them in your garden. They can easily be seen due to their bright distinctive red, yellow and black coloring. They should be destroyed. Poisons are of little use and the insect needs to be beheaded or crushed. The adults mate and eggs are deposited in the ground to arise as nymphs as the following April or May. Their presence can be detected by leaves eaten along their edges.



**DR. HY LANS**, author and Master Gardener - Hy passed away but left the society with his very valuable research that we have incorporated into a wonderful book. If you don't have a copy of Hy's book, be sure to pick one up at our next meeting It sells for \$10 and will be \$10 well spent.

### **Keeping Hibiscus Clean & Pest-Free SOME ADVISE FROM HIDDEN VALLEY**

Just like humans, animals, houses, and so many other things in life, a little bit of hygiene goes a long way toward keeping our hibiscus happy and healthy. Good hygiene is by far the best way to prevent pests, and clean plants capture sunlight more efficiently, which means more fuel for growing and blooming. So how do we go about practicing good hygiene with our hibiscus?

#### **Showering**

In nature, rain does much more than just water the ground and roots of plants. It washes plants, spraying away any prowling pests, keeping leaves clean, dust free, and more able to capture sunlight for fuel. Rain provides extra moisture through the leaves which helps hibiscus stay healthy in high heat. Hibiscus thrive in places that get frequent rain, and thanks to modern plumbing, we can give our hibiscus showers when nature doesn't provide them. In fact, we can beat Mother Nature with our hibiscus showers! Rain falls only on the tops of leaves, and misses everything underneath. When we shower our hibiscus, we can do a much more thorough job, and keep our hibiscus even healthier.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE NUMBERS MEAN ON THE BOTTOMS OF PLASTIC CONTAINERS?

HERE IS THE INFORMATION from GREEN LIVING **UNDERSTANDING PLASTIC RECYCLING CODES**

[Check out more information regarding plastic resin codes.](http://service@green-living.com) [service@green-living.com]

Code	Name	Recycle rate	Recommendation
1 PETE	Polyethylene terephthalate	23%	Designed for single use only. Extended use increases risk of leaching and bacterial growth.
2 HDPE	High density polyethylene	27%	Appears to be safe.
3 V or PVC	Vinyl or polyvinyl chloride	< 1%	Nicknamed the poison plastic; contains many toxins.
4 LDPE	Low density polyethylene	< 1%	Appears to be safe.
5 PP	Polypropylene	3%	Appears to be safe.
6 PS	Polystyrene	< 1%	Avoid. May leach styrene, a possible human carcinogen and hormone disrupter.
7 Other PC	Polycarbonate derivatives	<1%	Caution. Concern with leaching of Bisphenol A, which is linked to chromosomal damage.

## What to Plant

**Annuals/Bedding Plants:** Annuals that can take full sun during the increasingly hot summer months include celosia, portulaca, vinca, and some coleus.

**Palms:** Summer's warm, rainy months are the perfect time to plant palms. Make sure not to cover the trunk with soil.

**Herbs:** Plant heat-loving herbs, including basil, ginger, summer savory, cumin, Mexican tarragon, and rosemary

**Vegetables:** Plant tropical vegetables, such as boniato, calabaza, and chayote this month.

## What to Do

**Pests:** Monitor the landscape and garden weekly for harmful insects. Knowing which insects attack a plant can aid in identification and treatment.

**Irrigation:** Watch for drought stress and water as needed if rainfall has been spotty. Focus on new plantings and follow watering restrictions. When rains begin, shut down the irrigation system.

**Propagation:** Produce more plants by air layering, grafting, division, or cuttings.

**Palms and cycads:** Watch for nutrient deficiencies or other problems and use an appropriate treatment.

**Pruning:** Lightly prune summer-flowering shrubs, like hibiscus (**AFTER THE SHOW**), oleander, and ixora, during the warmer months to increase blooming.

**Fertilizer Bans:** Numerous municipalities in south Florida prohibit the application of fertilizer to lawns and/or landscape plants during the summer rainy season (June–September). See if such an ordinance exists in your area.

**Lawns:** Check frequently for damaged areas and keep insects in check with early treatment. Determine whether yellow and brown lawn patches are caused by chinch bugs, disease, or lack of water. Take time to determine the cause so your remedy is effective. Rejuvenate areas where grass does not grow well by replacing it with versatile groundcovers.

**Soil solarization:** Clean up your vegetable garden and solarize the soil for 4–6 weeks to kill pests and disease.

**Lightning safety: Be safe outdoors during storm season WHEN THUNDER ROARS-GO INDOORS!**

Today marks 5 weeks of isolation. Walking 5 miles a day—no meat, dairy or flour. Eating fresh vegetables and home cooked meals every day. The change has been fantastic! I feel great! Zero Alcohol! A healthy, gluten-free, caffeine-free diet and a 1 hour home workout every day! Lost 20 lbs and gained muscle mass. I have no idea who wrote this, but I'm so proud of them, so I decided to copy and paste. barbara oster, editor

## NAME THAT BLOOM



Let's have some fun while we are waiting to get back to our shows and meetings! We are starting a monthly feature called "Name that Bloom."

Pictured here is a flower that has been around for over 10 years.

"I'm not sure if we have had it available for purchase at one of our sales or not, but I would sure like one!" says BETH. The blooms are large (8-9 inches) with a full bush.

Can you Name That Bloom? Send your guess to Beth at [BethMG2020@gmail.com](mailto:BethMG2020@gmail.com). The names of everyone who identifies it correctly will be in our next newsletter. Beth will also tell you more about this beauty. Send your guess to BETH today!

Stay safe everyone! [BethMG2020@gmail.com](mailto:BethMG2020@gmail.com)

**Don't let this be the last newsletter you receive. DUES ARE DUE!**

send to: BARBARA OSTER, 4457 ORCHID BLVD, CAPE CORAL 33904  
A \$40 check made to AHS (American Hibiscus Society) will be appreciated.

Don't forget to send in your dues. We close our books on June 30.

## What's Growing In Your Garden?

Hopefully everyone has some amazing blooms growing in their yards. If we were having meetings and shows, we'd all be able to see them. Alas, things are different these days. So, let's have a "virtual" mini show!

Instead of bringing your blooms to a meeting, take a picture! We will have a "virtual" contest to decide on the favorites.

Here are the rules:

1. We will have three categories: Seedling, Mini and Regular. (If we have lots of entries, we may divide into single and double in the next contest.)
2. Send all entries to Beth Meehan at [BethMG2020@gmail.com](mailto:BethMG2020@gmail.com)
3. You can send up to 2 pictures in each category (up to 6 total).
4. Send the name of your bloom and the category you are entering.
5. Photos must be submitted by June 6<sup>th</sup>.
6. An email will be sent out to everyone with all the entries.
7. Everyone will have 1 week to email your votes to me for your 2 favorites in each category. Just like the real mini shows – there is no criteria for voting. Pick the ones that you like best.

I hope everyone enjoys having these "virtual" shows. Your participation (sending in pictures or ballot) is a vote that you would like this to continue until we can meet again in person. --- Beth Meehan

In this time of limited activities, BETH has stepped up and created a couple of activities we hope you all will participate in. By now, our cupboards are straightened, our gardens are weeded and our closets are organized (this is a fantasy of mine). Let's have some hibiscus fun and send entries to Beth!

The winning bloom pictures will be shown in your July newsletter.



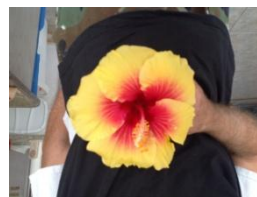
NEELA'S ORANGE



EVREN'S GOLD



SOPHIE ELLA



KATIE'S TUFFY



Micki & Denise

When the news was announced that our hailed Veteran, Frank Heffernan and Bonnie Hall (members of more than 20 years) were moving to the Melbourne, Florida area it was heartbreaking to learn that JEH would lose a wonderful friend, mentor and enthusiast. Frank was a major hybridizer and contributor to the National Seed Bank. Soft spoken and humbly Frank would bring his box of seeds to share as well as cuttings of his hibiscus and other plants including lemongrass, plumeria and other tropical plants. The best tasting Valencia Mangoes graced the Cape Coral property and provided shade for some of the older hibiscus. Frank encouraged others to plant pineapples and many other things. Instructional talks by Frank at JEH meetings about how to nick and plant seeds,



fertilize and care for young seedlings were all discussed in depth. Wife, Bonnie of course, was his biggest fan and supporter !

Upon learning that the Heffernan/Hall property was sold Micki Dougherty went into over-drive or " rescue mode " and wrote a note addressed to the " New Owners". Apparently the note was well received and Denise Helfrich immediately joined our JEH chapter and stopped at president, Jack Bernatz & Charlotte's home in Cape Coral for a 50 lb bag of Hibiscain ! Micki welcomed Denise as a New Member and visited Denise at her home sharing some vital information about insect control , fertilizing, the proper way to prune including directional pruning and of course care instructions involving the Craftman Sprayer !

written by MICKI DOUGHERTY and submitted to the Herald Hendry Newsletter

## A NAMING GAME - NAME THIS NEW FRANK'S HYBRID

When FRANK & BONNIE were packing up to move to Melbourne, Florida, FRANK called JACK BERNATZ & CHARLOTTE HARFF to give them a few of the seedlings he had hybridized. One of those seedlings has just bloomed and FRANK thought it would be a good idea for someone in our group to name it. CHARLOTTE HARFF is the grower of this beauty.



Send your name suggestion to [barbaramo@earthlink.net](mailto:barbaramo@earthlink.net) and I will get them to FRANK to judge.

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**DUES ARE DUE!**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Please send to BARBARA OSTER, 4457 ORCHID BLVD, CAPE CORAL, FL, 33904  
CHECK made to AHS (AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY) \$40 Fiscal year is 7/1/2020-6/30/2021  
**THANK YOU**



**DEADLINE FOR THE JULY NEWSLETTER IS JUNE 13, 2020**  
barbara oster, editor